

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00952 091129Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 /036 W

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O 091110Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3635

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, FT

SUBAECT: SAUDI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON DJIBOUTI

1. IN MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR FEB 9 SAUDI FONMIN PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE HIM ON AN URGENT BASIS A BRIEFING PAPER ON THE SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI. SAUD SAID HE WAS LEAVING JIDDA EARLY AFTERNOON FEB 10 AND HOPED HE COULD HAVE THE PAPER BY THEN. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT MIGHT BE TOO SHORT A DEADLINE, BUT THAT WE WOULD TRY TO GIVE THE PRINCE WHAT HE WANTED.

2. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE WE SHOULD RESPOND TO PRINCE SAUD'S REQUEST. THE SAUDIS HAVE POTENTIALLY GREAT INFLUENCE IN PARTS OF AFRICA AND THEY HAVE SPOKEN TO US IN THE PAST OF THE DESIRABILITY OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION TO FURTHER WESTERN INTERESTS AND THWART COMMUNIST DESIGNS THERE. BELIEVE A "BRIEFING PAPER" SHOULD CONTAIN AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. OUR BEST INFORMATION ON THE FACTS OF THE SHOOT OUT BETWEEN FRENCH SECURITY FORCES AND THE KIDNAPPERS ON THE SOMALI BORDER.

B. OUR ESTIMATE OF SOMALI INTENTIONS IN THE TFAI, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO THE PROMOTION OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

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C. LIKELY EFFECT ON THE INCIDENT ON FRENCH PLANS

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TFAI.

D. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE DEPT THINKS WOULD
BE USEFUL TO PRINCE SAUD IN EVALUATING THE PRESENT
SITUATION IN THE TFAI.

3. WE HAVE EMBASSY PARIS' HELPFUL TELEGRAM 3756 ON
"FRENCH POLICY IN THE TFAI" WHICH DEALS WITH POINT 2(A)
ABOVE.

4. IN ORDER TO GET THE INFORMATION TO SAUD, WE WOULD HAVE TO
HAVE A REPLY FROM THE DEPT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE FEB. 10.
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